BULLETIN
OF THE WORLD COUNCIL
OF PEACE

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VIENNA IV, AUSTRIA
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Vienna, 15 October 1959

41/116/15

Dear Friends,

Here are some news items :

SUMMIT CONFERENCE
DISARMAMENT

On 2 October Mr. N. Khrushchov, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U., Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Mr. Suslov, Member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U., received in their residence in Peking Professor J.D.Bernal, well-known British scientist and peace worker, Chairman of the Presidential Committee of the World Council of Peace, who was taking part in the Xth anniversary celebrations of the proclamation of the People's Republic of China.

A cordial and friendly discussion took place.

/Austria/ Austrian women called on the government to support the Soviet proposals for total and complete disarmament in a resolution passed at a recent meeting in Vienna of the Austrian Democratic Women's Federation on the theme "Lay down your arms".

At the 4th Congress of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions on 21-27 September a unanimous resolution was passed calling for the immediate, total and controlled cessation of all atomic weapon tests. The resolution appeals to all Austrian workers to set up a common front of struggle for this aim.

/Canada/ The British Colombia Peace Committee took a booth at the Pacific Coast Trade Fair.

Postcards addressed to the Canadian Prime Minister were distributed to visitors asking him to use his influence to help to avoid the resumption of nuclear weapon tests. During the fair 2,450 cards were signed and sent to the Prime Minister.

Visitors were also asked to sign a long roll of paper containing a petition to the Prime Minister for the recognition of the People's Republic of China and the establishment of trade with this country, and 1,100 signatures were collected.

In the evenings a film, "The Aldermaston March",was shown to groups of people.

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The Toronto Peace Committee sent a letter to the Canadian Prime Minister asking the government to pay close attention to proposals for disarmament.

/Iraq/ At a demonstration in the town of Karbala peace workers expressed their support for the appeal of the National Council on Nikita Khrushchov's disarmament proposals.

/Burma/ The National Peace Committee welcomed the disarmament proposals and is carrying out a campaign to make them as widely known as possible. It intends launching a campaign for total disarmament in 4 years, based on Khrushchov's proposals.

The Council of Governors of the International Red Cross, meeting in Athens in September, passed a resolution welcoming efforts for general disarmament and the cessation of nuclear tests. It also welcomed "efforts by heads of state to resolve problems through friendly negotiations and in particular congratulates the statesmen whose recent meetings have brought hope to a troubled world."

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SAHARA TESTS

Statements and activities against the proposed French Sahara tests are continuing throughout the world.

/Japan/ The Nagasaki Municipal Assembly adopted a resolution against the French plans. A letter was sent to the Japanese government calling on it to put a motion before the United Nations for a ban on these tests.

One of the resolutions of the World Federation of Scientific Workers at its 6th General Assembly in Warsaw protests against the Sahara atomic projects of the French Government.

The Executive Committee of the European Federation against Nuclear Weapons, at its recent meeting in London, decided to write to all African governments stressing the dangers of the impending French tests in the Sahara.

The Executive Committee of the Pan-African Conference, meeting in Accra from 6-9 October, adopted a resolution censuring the French plans and appealing for a ban on all tests.

GOOD INITIATIVES IN THE BALKANSAND ADRIATIC

/Rumania/ A meeting of representatives of various youth and students' organisations of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia and Rumania was held on 26 and 27 September.

A unanimous decision was taken to hold a meeting of youth and students of Balkan and Adriatic countries from 30 January to 3 February 1960 in Bucharest to strengthen cooperation and friendship between the young people of these countries.

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/Greece/ A "Committee for Balkan Understanding" has just been set up composed of a group of people well-known in political and cultural fields, and led by former ministers Mercuris and Arguiropulos.

The Committee sent a message to Mr. N. Khrushchov on his trip to the United States and in his reply Mr. Khrushchov expressed his high esteem for this "great idea of peaceful cooperation between the peoples of the Balkan Peninsula".

Vima, an Athens newspaper, in commenting on the effects on international relations of the Khrushchov-Eisenhower discussions, writes that after these conversations the world entered an era of negotiations and therefore, at a time when discussions are taking place not only on doing away with nuclear weapons but all kinds of weapons, it would not be logic to talk about the establishment of atomic bases in Greece."

/Bulgaria/ All the newspapers published articles on 2 and 3 October dealing with the relaxation of tension in the Balkans and the possibility of and need for a meeting of statesmen of these countries, giving as an example the Khrushchov-Eisenhower meetings.

ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

The Latin American Peace Movements are very active, reacting immediately to all the most important events in the international scene in relation to specific tasks facing their countries. They are carrying out interesting and original activities. Everyday the International Institute for Peace receives dozens of letters from these Peace Movements, from various Latin American personalities and organisations, but because of the great distance and the rapid development of international events, the news has lost its actuality by the time it arrives.

/Argentina/ The 3rd Assembly of Latin American University Students was held in the middle of September in Buenos Aires. Representatives of all universities - 53 delegations - took part and in one of the resolutions the students make an energetic protest against all nuclear tests irrespective of where they are carried out. "In addition", the resolution goes on to say, "we oppose universities having anything to do with the production of nuclear weapons and consider it absolutely necessary that a control body be set up to cover all nuclear establishments throughout the world."

The Peace Committee sent a greetings telegram to Mr.Khrushchov and Mr. Eisenhower and published a statement on their meeting. Deputy Luis A. Tecco put before the Chamber a motion greeting the Khrushchov-Eisenhower meeting and asking them to reach agreement on the banning of nuclear weapons and disarmament and to solve outstanding problems by negotiations. At the same time various commissions and councils carried out a campaign to get Argentine organisations and personalities to make statements or send greetings.

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The Law Students' Cultural Committee decided to hold a series of round-table discussions on problems of international law. The first discussion will deal with top-level meetings and similar meetings are proposed in other centres.

Steps are being taken to have a meeting convened by an Institute of Study on international policy.

The Executive Committee has decided to convene a national assembly of the Peace Movement to discuss the question of organising a big national campaign to demand a radical change in Argentine foreign policy in view of the favourable development of the international situation.

/Brazil/ Mr. Campos Vergal made a speech in the Chamber of Deputies in September on the principles of the World Peace Movement and the role of the World Council. He read the full text of a letter from the WCP and concluded by calling on the President of the Chamber and all responsible people to follow the great and humanitarian principles of the World Council of Peace. A resumé of his speech and the text of the WCP letter were published in the official organ of the Chamber, Diaro do Congresso Nacional, in September.

The Peace Committeè sent messages to the Soviet Peace Committee on the occasion of Mr.Khrushchov's trip to the United States and the success of Lunik. Meetings were held and messages were sent to Peking to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

A meeting of solidarity with the Algerian people was held in the offices of the Brazilian Arab Union at which the Lebanese and U.A.R. Ambassadors were present, together with Deputies, churchmen and students. The meeting was organised by a committee chaired by Mr. Moreira, M.P.

At the end of this meeting a campaign was proposed in the Provincial Parliament and the Municipal Council where speeches were made calling on Brazil to support Algerian demands in the UN.

At the end of September several students organisations held a meeting in Sao Paulo to demand the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to declare an amnesty for political prisoners in these countries. A signature campaign has started and already 200,000 people have signed, the aim being 500,000 signatures.

On the same day a Social-Progressive Party M.P. called in the Chamber of Deputies for the release of Spanish and Portuguese political prisoners.

/Colombia/ A series of articles has been published in various newspapers on the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the 2nd world war, and meetings have been held. An important delegation took part in the Xth anniversary celebrations of the People's Republic of China and a big meeting was held in Bogota to bid it farewell.

With our best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Editorial Borad of the
Bulletin of the W.C.P.

the Laotian Government of having resorted to this "trial" in order to justify its constant violation of the Geneva Agreements and to cover up its misdemeanours.

/ Indonesia / On behalf of its 2,700,000 members, the National Council of the Indonesian trade union organisation SOBSI has expressed the support of this organisation and the Indonesian people as a whole to the struggle of the Laotian people against the political intrigues of the American imperialists and against their intervention in the internal affairs of Laos. The National Council also condemned the Laotian reactionaries who are their stooges.

On 3 November the National Council of SOBSI sent a letter to Mr. Sananikone, Prime Minister of the Laotian Government, expressing this viewpoint.

In a recently-published statement, the Peace Committee has appealed to the Indonesian Government and people to make a strong protest against the arbitrary decision to bring Prince Souphanouvong and other Laotian leaders up for trial.

/ Vietnam / Mrs. Isabelle Blume, member of the Presidential Committee of the World Council of Peace, recently visiting Vietnam, appealed to all peace-loving peoples to spare no efforts to save Prince Souphanouvong and the other Neo Lao Haksat Party leaders.

G.F.R. T R I A L

On 10 November the trial of seven members of the German Federal Republic Peace Committee opened in Düsseldorf Provincial Court's tribunal for political cases.

Just before the commencement of the trial the German Peace Council (GDR) published an important statement which said: "On behalf of millions of Germans the German Peace Council makes a strong protest against measures taken by the West German legal authorities and demands annulment of the proceedings taken against representatives and members of the West German Peace Movement. We condemn this prosecution of the West German Peace Committee and demand the right of free activity for all peace workers. We call on all Germans in West and East and all friends of peace throughout the world to join in this protest.

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The International Association of Democratic Lawyers has made a protest against the very principle of this trial and against persecution of peace workers in the German Federal Republic.

The Austrian Peace Committee and the Presidential Committee of the Czechoslovak Peace Movement have also protested.

In Stuttgart (German Federal Republic) a pamphlet has been published giving the biography of the accused and several leading people have signed a letter protesting against the trial.

Participants at the 13th plenary meeting of the Niedersachsen Peace Committee (GFR) have published a protest statement.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

/ Puerto Rico / The Puerto Rican Peace Council has asked National Movements to publicise the fact that the US House of Representatives Committee for UnAmerican Activities is carrying out proceedings against leaders of the Puerto Rican Peace Council, including Mr. Felix Ojeda, Chairman, Mr.Arroyo Zeppenfeldt, Vice-Chairman and Mr. J.E. Cuesta, Secretary.

/ Cuba / The National Peace Council has got out a bulletin giving suggestions to help peace wokers in their work. The centre pages contain the viewpoints of various personalities in reply to an enquiry at present being made.

/ Argentina / Round Table discussions on Argentine foreign policy, organised by the Law Students' Centre, was held recently. Participants included well-known citizens, MPs, former diplomats and leaders of the Peace Movement.

/ Poland / On 2 November last, a group of students from the German Federal Republic touring Poland, paid a visit to the Polish Peace Council, where a reception was held attended by MPs, representatives of various Catholic groups and of the Demicratic Party.

The students showed a lively interest in the Polish Peace Committee's collaboration with committees in other countries, in particular on its relations with the German Federal Republic Peace Movement.

The meeting was a very cordial one and many addresses were exchanged.

On the occasion of International Students' Week, the Polish Peace Committee organised a meeting on 13 November between students of 31 countries now studying in Poland. The main emphasis of the discussion was on the question of disarmament.

/ France / In reply to an appeal by the Peace Committee, a hundred people met in a district of Poitiers to hear two speakers, one on the danger of nuclear tests and the other on the war in Algeria.

The Bureau of the Seine Peace Council has thanked allthose who helped to make a success of the Villejuif demonstration and called on Peace Councils and Committees to make active preparations for the Departmental Congress to be held on 29 November next in Pantin.

Tens of thousands of postcards, published by the Peace Movement and calling for an immediate peace in Algeria, are now in circulation throughout France. The cards are addressed to the President of the Republic and many cards are being signed by workers, office workers and peasants.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Editorial Board
Bulletin of the WCP